

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLAG DAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today on Flag Day to extend my appreciation to our veterans and the men and women in our Armed Forces for their service and protection in both peace and war.

I am honored to attend the 13th Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, June 16, 2001, hosted by the American Legion Stanley Pack Post #499, in Blue Springs, Missouri. American Legion Post #499 has a long history of providing a ceremony to lie to rest our colors. The members of the American Legion Post #499 have tirelessly dedicated their time to honor our nation's flag and share with our citizens, both young and old, their respect and admiration for the flag and all that it represents.

As American Legion Post #499 lays these tired flags to rest, we are mindful of the glory of our nation and the rights and freedoms that we share. The 13 red and white stripes not only represent our humble beginnings as 13 British colonies who fought bravely to gain us freedom but also the purity of our national purpose and the blood of our brave men and women in uniform who selflessly stand ready to defend our nation.

There is no better symbol of our country's values and traditions than the flag of the United States of America. It continues to exemplify the profound commitment that our founders made to freedom, equality, and opportunity more than two centuries ago. The flag flies with magnificent glory from public buildings, covers hero's tombs as a remembrance of their bravery, and serves as a daily reminder to all of us that the blessing of democracy and peace should not be taken for granted.

It is important that we teach our children the significance of our flag. Today, our nation renews its allegiance to our flag. Together, we stand collectively to honor its glory as its vibrant colors continue to wave through the skies that blanket the dreams and hopes of our beloved America. This truly is the land of the free and the home of the brave, and I am honored that we can share and enjoy the peace and the prosperity of this great nation.

H. CON. RES. REGARDING OIL AND GAS PIPELINE ROUTES THROUGH THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Congressman JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG, Congressman FRANK PALLONE,

and Congressman JOHN SWEENEY, in offering this House Concurrent Resolution. This resolution seeks to ensure a just and equitable regional arrangement that will strengthen political, economic and security ties among all the nations of the South Caucasus.

Mr. Speaker, I am greatly concerned by the National Energy Policy Development (NEPD) (Group recommendation to support the Baku-Ceyhan (SAY-han) pipeline. Along with my colleagues, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. PALLONE and Mr. SWEENEY, I will be sending a letter to the President urging him to reexamine the NEPD Group recommendations regarding the Caucasus. I am also asking that he review all current and future oil and gas pipeline routes to ensure that all countries of the South Caucasus are included.

The proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline route originating in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku and terminating at the Turkish port of Ceyhan via Georgia, explicitly bypasses Armenia at the insistence of Azerbaijan. The demands by Azerbaijan to bypass Armenia come despite the knowledge that a trans-Armenia route is the most reliable, direct and cost-effective route, and certainly one of the most tangible actions in support of regional integration and cooperation.

Armenia's exclusion from regional economic and commercial undertakings in the South Caucasus hinders U.S. policy goals of promoting regional stability based upon the development of strong political, economic and security ties among all countries of the Caucasus and the United States. Exclusion of one country in regional projects only fosters instability.

Armenia must be included in regional and trans-regional economic plans and projects. Only then can stability in the Caucasus be fostered. Encouragement of open market economies, increased trade and international private investment will lead to regional prosperity for all the countries involved. No one country should be excluded. Moreover, it simply does not make sense to choose a far more costly option that excludes Armenia, because of political considerations that do not benefit either the countries of the region nor the U.S. The proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is estimated to cost more than \$2.7 billion. A pipeline that includes Armenia, a route that is more direct would reduce the pipeline costs by a minimum of \$6 million. That is a significant savings. That is a cost savings not only for the region, but for U.S. taxpayers who are helping to fund planning and implementation of the South Caucasus pipeline projects.

Finally, I should note that Armenia has been a strong ally of the U.S. in the region. With a well-educated and highly skilled population, it is a country moving towards democracy and an open economy. We simply cannot afford to alienate a proven friend and ally in the region.

In closing, I want to urge the President to give additional thought to the proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline and to have the foresight to include Armenia in that project, both for the good of the region, and for the good of U.S. policy in the region.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DEDICATED WORK OF SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to join with my colleagues in honoring one of the most dedicated and respected legislators of our time—former Congresswoman and civil rights leader Shirley Anita Chisholm.

It is said of Shirley Chisholm that she was a passionate and effective advocate for the needs of minorities, women, and children and that she truly changed the nation's perception about the capabilities of women and African-Americans. Well, while that may well be true, Shirley Chisholm was that and so much more.

I had the distinction and pleasure of serving with Shirley Chisholm in the New York State Assembly in the mid 1960's and later here in the Congress where she was the first African-American woman elected to Congress, and witnessed firsthand just how much of a pioneer and visionary she was. She didn't fear entering the male-dominated Brooklyn political arena, nor the New York State Legislature, nor this Congress, and she did it with the ebullient style and determination that was Shirley.

Her enduring spirit and foresight, lead her to take the biggest step of all when she ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972, only seven years after Blacks were given the right to vote. It was through this venue, that Shirley Chisholm was able to focus national attention on the issues that mattered most to her. She became a powerful spokesperson for the Democratic Party. Though she was not successful in her bid, her running was symbolic. It encouraged other Blacks and women to participate in politics; it opened the door to later campaigns, and it sent the message that Black politicians had arrived.

For many years, Shirley Chisholm has given leadership to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision for a better world. Throughout her political career, her tireless efforts lead her to take on such issues as women's rights, funding for day care, job training, fair housing, and environmental protection just to name a few. She also fought against credits to defray the cost of going to private schools fearing it would diminish the quality of public schools.

Shirley Chisholm was an outspoken leader. She worked for the reform of U.S. political parties and legislatures in order to meet the needs of more citizens. She was a severe critic of the seniority system in Congress and protested her 1969 assignment to the House Agriculture Committee. She soon won reassignment to a committee on which she felt she could be of greater service to her district.

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